

**In the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system, comprising:  
a multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis, comprising,  
a top closure plate,  
a bottom closure plate, and  
a sliding core between the top and bottom closure plates, each closure plate including a pair of receiving openings ~~or projections~~, and  
an insertion instrument which comprises a handgrip and a gripping portion for engaging the top and bottom closure plates with corresponding retention projections ~~or openings~~ which, in order to hold the intervertebral endoprosthesis on the insertion instrument, are configured to engage with the corresponding receiving openings ~~or projections~~,  
the receiving openings being arranged in lateral side faces relative to an implanted position of the closure plates, and the ~~pair of~~ receiving openings assigned to at least one of the closure plates ~~[[has]]~~ each have an extended elongate shape extending in a direction toward the other closure plate.
2. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 1, wherein the receiving openings with an ~~extended~~ elongate shape are in the form of a slit.
3. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 1 or 2, wherein the receiving openings with an ~~extended~~ elongate shape extend over the entire height of the assigned closure plate.
4. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 1 or 2, wherein the receiving openings with an ~~extended~~ elongate shape extend over part of the height of the sliding core.

5. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 1 or 2, wherein the receiving openings with an ~~extended~~ elongate shape extend over the entire height of the sliding core.

6. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 1 or 2, wherein the receiving openings with an ~~extended~~ elongate shape narrow with increasing depth relative to a height of the multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis.

7. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 1 or 2, wherein receiving openings assigned to the other closure plate ~~[[has]]~~ have a round shape.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 1 or 2, wherein the retention projections are plates or pins.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A kit, comprising:

the multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 1 or 2,

and further comprising different sizes of sliding cores of different thicknesses.

12. (Previously Presented) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 1, wherein the gripping portion of the insertion instrument comprises a block with an abutment surface configured for bearing on the at least one of the closure plates, said block being connected to a force-receiving part on the insertion instrument for applying an insertion force to the intervertebral endoprosthesis.

13. (Previously Presented) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 12, wherein the block is arranged rigidly on the gripping portion.

14. (Previously Presented) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 13, wherein the block is secured to the gripping portion with a through-screw.

15. (Previously Presented) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 13, wherein the block is secured to the gripping portion with a clamping screw.

16. (Previously Presented) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 12, 13, 14 or 15, further comprising a rod with a handle in the rear area of the handgrip arranged on the block.

17. (Previously Presented) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis system of claim 16, wherein the handle is designed as a strike head.

18. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of ~~system~~ claim 13, 14 or 15, wherein the block is arranged on a jaw insert.

19-20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) The multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis of ~~system~~ claim 17, wherein the block is arranged on a jaw insert.